



BUILT ON SLAVERY

Caitlin Rosenthal's
new book shows how
capitalist production
was pioneered on
plantations
>>Pages 14&15



LIVING IN A
CONTAINER
IS LIKE PRISON
Residents speak out
>>Pages 10&11

Socialist Worker

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PUSH FOR PROFIT CAUSED RAINFOREST FIRE



SET ABLAZE BY SYSTEM

STRIKE & PROTEST FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

BREXIT

Don't rely on Lib Dems for Corbyn support

JEREMY CORBYN is set to meet opposition party leaders in a bid to block Boris Johnson's no-deal Brexit.

But the Lib Dems aren't bothered about how a no-deal Brexit will impact ordinary people.

They are determined to protect the interests of the rich.

>>Page 5

RACISM



The Terrorism Act makes Muslims suffer

NEW RESEARCH by detainee rights organisation Cage has revealed some of the reality of state-sponsored racism.

Muslims make up 88 percent of people stopped under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act. It was designed to stigmatise Muslims, and paint them as the "enemy within".

>>Page 17

ARMS FAIR

'Festival of violence' set to hit London

THE DEFENCE and Security Equipment International—one of the biggest arms fairs in the world—is set to begin in London next week.

Some 30,000 delegates will attend, some representing countries responsible for human rights abuses.

>>Page 6



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'She has a distinctly leftwing face. This is hard to describe, but easy to recognise'

Daily Telegraph bore Charles Moore on Olivia Colman, who is set to star in the new TV series *The Crown*

'At no stage during the limited time I spent with him did I see, witness or suspect any behaviour'

Prince Andrew on his friend, paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Epstein was jailed in 2008. Andrew was pictured in his house in 2010

'[We kept to a] rigid colour palette of black, white, and grey'

'Curator' Thatcher Wine on how he chose books for celebrity actor Gwyneth Paltrow

'I got it, I got it. Why don't we just nuke them?'

Donald Trump devises new plan to beat hurricanes

'Sir, we'll look into that'

White House 'briefer' responds

'I am still the Member of Parliament'

Former Labour MP Mike Gapes reminds followers on Twitter that he still exists

'I got interested in politics after I started investing in gold in the early noughties'

Brexit Party candidate Dominic Frisby

Screws lined up 'like penalty shoot-out' to watch man die

BEING DRAGGED naked across the floor and restrained by prison guards are the final conscious moments of prisoner Allan Marshall.

Shocking CCTV footage, released this week after a fatal accident inquiry, shows guards from Saughton Prison, in Edinburgh, laughing as Allan lay on the floor.

One of the 13-strong officers' team is seen forcefully placing his knee on Allan's back.

A witness to the inquiry said they heard Allan shouting that he couldn't breathe.

Guards placed a towel over his face as his otherwise limp body showed signs of distress.

The officers lined up "like a penalty shoot-out" to watch him die.



A 13-STRONG team of officers 'restrained' Allan

One officer even appears to give a thumbs-up as paramedics take Allan to hospital.

Allan died in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary four days later, in March 2015.

His cause of death was cited as "brain injury due to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

during physical restraint".

Pictures taken of the unit show heavy blood stains on the floor. There were multiple signs of injury to Allan on photos taken of him in hospital as he lay in a coma.

Incredibly, all the prison officers involved have been given immunity from

prosecution, on condition that they testified at the inquiry.

Allan's family told the Daily Record newspaper that the treatment was a "form of torture".

"We were horrified when we saw the three prison officers at the end bouncing up and down and cuddling each other," says Sharon MacFadyen, Allan's aunt.

The inquiry sheriff said Allan's death was "entirely preventable," and "It was clear that prison officer staff did not tell the whole truth on a number of occasions."

"Sometimes they appeared to be mutually and consistently dishonest."

Allan's family want the officers involved charged.

The Scottish Prison Service said, "We don't have any further comment to offer."

AS THE pound's value tumbles there's one group of people who are rubbing their hands—foreign exchange traders.

Betting that a "no-deal" Brexit will cause its value to fall even lower, the City types aim to make a killing.

"A lot of them are saying thank goodness for Boris, he's giving us a chance to make money," said Baron O'Neil, a former advisor to David Cameron.



City traders—raking it in

FEW SOCIALIST Worker readers will have shed a tear at the passing of Baron Bell of Belgravia this week.

Margaret Thatcher's henchman conducted a media war against striking miners and was a friend to brutal Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

How fitting that Tony Blair gave him a life peerage.

Why do the right hate Notting Hill carnival?

WITH HUNDREDS of thousands of revellers, of all ethnic backgrounds, taking control of west London's streets, it's no wonder the right hate Notting Hill Carnival.

Hordes of cops came to the party this week with their knife arches and truncheons, reinforcing the idea that Carnival is dangerous.

Yet, according to research by the Huffington Post, arrest rates at Carnival over the last three years are similar to those at the Glastonbury Festival.

Yet, "Glasto" is now thoroughly respectable—it's live on the BBC and in the Daily Mail.

Matthew Phillip, executive director of Notting Hill Carnival, smells a rat.

"Carnival is the only festival, the only event the Met do where they automatically put out the crime stats. Any other event the press have to ask for it," he said.

COPS were ordered "not to dance" at Carnival this year to show just how tough a line they are taking.



Cops—not in the party spirit

Johnson's porkies don't cut mustard

SPENT MONTHS in pain waiting for an operation? Stuck in A&E for hours with a broken arm?

Worry not, Boris Johnson is here to fix the NHS.

He declared last week, "Hot buttered toast for the patients of this country" will help improve people's experience of the NHS.

Frontline health workers were quick to point out that one in four hospital wards are dangerously short of staff—and that, understandably, toast is not always their highest priority.

JOHNSON was sorting out major trade issues this week at the G7 world leaders' summit.

"Melton Mowbray pork pies, which are sold in Thailand and in Iceland, are currently unable to enter the US," he declared.

Only for the Melton Mowbray Pork Pie Association to respond, saying, "We don't actually export to Thailand or Iceland."

Who'd have guessed that Johnson would get caught telling pork pies?



Johnson—no bread for NHS



GOING UP

£340

for a single child's school uniform

Nazis are 'sub-human'

A ROYAL Navy sailor set to work on a nuclear Trident submarine, has been exposed as a member of a far right group.

He is one of two members of the navy that were found to belong to Generation Identity—a group with links to a banned terrorist organisation.

The identitarian movement is one of number of far right groups that parrot the "great replacement theory". This argues there is a conspiracy to undermine white people in Europe and America.

The theory was cited by the mass shooters in the Christchurch mosque attacks which killed 51 people in March, and the massacre in El Paso, Texas, earlier this month, which killed 22 people.

Jet set royals are all at it

THE MEDIA went wild last week with stories of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on a "budget airline".

But all was not as it seemed.

Flybe this week confirmed it ordered an empty plane be flown especially for them.



GOING UP

£3.6m

average top boss yearly salary (excluding bonus)

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More workers plan to join strikes over outsourcing

by NICK CLARK

A MAJOR battle over low pay and outsourcing at a central London government office was set to escalate next week—as more workers join the fight.

Porters and reception and security staff at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are set to strike for five weeks from next Monday. They will join cleaners and caterers who have been on indefinite strike since mid-July.

One catering worker already on strike, Ana, told Socialist Worker, “It’s going to be massive.”

“Now everybody’s coming out—reception, porters, security, cleaners. We’re all together in this fight.”

The workers—members of the PCS union—want bosses at outsourcers ISS and Aramark to pay them the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour. They also want 28 days holiday, better sick pay—and ultimately to be brought back in house.

They have led the charge in a fight against low pay and outsourcing across the civil service.

But so far bosses haven’t agreed to new negotiations—and have brought in cleaners from other workplaces to break the strike.

Hope

Now the strikers hope that new workers joining the fight will be enough to force ISS and Aramark to give in.

One cleaner, Roman, said, “They’re bringing in cleaners from other buildings who are doing overtime.”

“But some of them are doing so much they’re starting to get tired with the whole thing. And the building isn’t getting looked after as properly as it normally would.”

He added, “The fact that different people are coming out on strike shortly means that more and



STRIKERS HAVE been out since mid July

Picture: PCS



more people are getting involved. It’s going to be their first strike so we’re going to welcome them and support them.”

And Ana said, “When the managers come and there’s no one to open the building or be on reception, it’s

going to be amazing.” It’s a big step forward in a fight that could spread to other government departments—and beyond.

Cleaners at HMRC tax offices, also employed by ISS, have struck to demand a living wage.

And the strikers know that if they win their battle, they could be an example for low-paid, outsourced workers everywhere.

It should become a high-profile dispute—and activists in the PCS and other unions should raise solidarity and invite strikers to speak at their meetings.

“It’s not just London government buildings,” said Roman “It’s in hospitals, and all sorts of workplaces across the country.” Ana said, “At the end of the day we are the company. We’re

helping to run the country as well. If you don’t have catering here, you have Pret a Manger, or Starbucks.

“All of those places have people working in them. You come here because we’re on a picket line. But when you go to the pub, you hear people complain about the same problems.

“So it’s not just about us, it’s about all the workers, for the same rights.”

Send messages of solidarity and invite strikers to speak at your meetings. Email leeds@pcs.org.uk Visit the picket lines from Monday 2 September, 1 Victoria St, Westminster, London SW1H 0ET

What’s your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

IN BRIEF

Don’t sell our council houses

MORE THAN 100,000 people have signed a petition to stop the Duke of Westminster demolishing a block of council flats in central London.

Billionaire duke Hugh Grosvenor owns more land than the Queen and is the



Posh boy developer

richest man aged under 30 in the world.

His property group, Grosvenor, plans to demolish two residential blocks in Belgravia and use the land to build luxury flats and expensive shops.

Sign the petition at bit.ly/Cundy

Fatal outbreak caused by cuts

THE DEATHS of 18 people were down to “systematic failures” following “dramatic” NHS budget cuts, according to a former health chief.

Professor John Ashton described 18 deaths linked to separate deadly earlier this



A killer sandwich?

year as “serious failures” of the system.

Six hospital patients died after eating sandwiches contaminated with listeria supplied to the NHS, and 12 Mid Essex NHS patients died from streptococcus infection.

Academies lead to crisis

A LOOMING shortage in the number of school places across England is being made worse by academies.

The number of children looking for spaces in secondary schools is set to increase over coming years.

But rules imposed by the Tory government mean that only privately-run academies or free schools are allowed to open to provide more spaces.

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Amazon fire shows cost of burning the planet

The blaze in the Amazon rainforest has been met by worldwide anger on the streets, writes **Sarah Bates**

THE WILDFIRES tearing through the Amazon rainforest in Brazil have shown the horrors of climate chaos.

The smoke is so thick it turned the air black in the city of Sao Paulo—some 1,700 miles from the inferno.

Nearer the fire, in the northern state of Rondonia, hospital admissions for respiratory problems have tripled.

Some of those on the front line are the one million indigenous people who live there.

One indigenous leader, Maria Leonice Tupari, said, “The fires affect everyone, principally us in the indigenous reserves.

“There is a lot of smoke, you can’t see properly, our vision burns”.

Fires happen every winter, but the rate has soared as farmers and loggers torched felled trees and cleared land for pasture.

Outbreaks

There have been more than 72,000 fire outbreaks in Brazil this year, according to the country’s National Institute for Space Research.

That’s up by 84 percent on the same period in 2018.

Far right President Jair Bolsonaro is a climate change denier and in the pocket of big agribusiness.

He is committed to clearing huge

BACK STORY

The Amazon rainforest is known as the “lungs of the planet”

●The Amazon absorbs millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide every year

●It is home to three million species and is the most biodiverse place on the planet

●Brazil’s far right president Jair Bolsonaro wants to give over swathes of it to cattle ranchers and crop fields

●He is a climate change denier and funded by big agribusiness

swathes of the Amazon for cattle ranches and crop fields at a terrifying pace. This is having disastrous consequences for humanity.

The Amazon is often referred to as “the lungs of the planet”, because it absorbs millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

This plays a critical role in regulating the Earth’s temperature—a crucial factor in catastrophic climate change.

And the rainforest is home to three million species, making it the most biodiverse place on Earth.

European Union (EU) leaders, such as French president Emmanuel

A BRAZILIAN firefighter tackles the blaze in the Amazon rain forest

Macron, hypocritically condemned Bolsonaro last week (see page 6). Their neoliberal policies have contributed to climate change.

The real hope lies in the people who have taken to the streets over the burning of the Amazon.

Thousands of people protested in towns and cities across Brazil last weekend to demand Bolsonaro tackles the blazes.

In Sao Paulo protesters blocked the main road, calling for the resignation of environment minister Ricardo Salles.

And in London hundreds of activists took to the streets in fury

at Brazil’s government and big agribusiness.

The protest, called by Extinction Rebellion, gathered outside the Brazilian embassy in central London.

Hannah told Socialist Worker, “When Notre Dame was burning, all these billionaires came out of the woodwork to rebuild it.

“So when Bolsonaro says Brazil can’t afford to put out the fires, it’s bullshit.

“He wants the fires to clear the way for cattle ranches.”

The meat industry rightly came in for criticism. For a large section of protesters, the solution was a

vegan diet. Heidi said, “Agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation. Eating meat is not a ‘personal choice’ if it has an impact on the planet.”

But designer Attilio emphasised, “The source of the problem is policy, and you can only change policy with political action.

“You have to recognise that the biggest interests in Brazil are multinational corporations and a government so rotten it fired the head of its space institute just for telling the truth.

He added, “In the end you have to confront that system.”

Thanks to Dave Sewell



Join the Global Climate Strike for the Future



Friday 20 Sept

Cuadrilla causes a series of record breaking earthquakes

ENERGY GIANT Cuadrilla caused the biggest fracking-induced earthquake in Britain to date on Monday.

Houses shook as the 2.9 magnitude quake took place around the Preston New Road (PNR) site, near Blackpool, in Lancashire.

This came after people living near the site were terrified by shaking buildings and windows last Saturday night. The earthquake had a magnitude of 2.1

The Frack Free Lancashire campaign group said, “We are livid that we are once again, being put in harm’s way for an experiment that we didn’t ask to be a part of.”

Fracking at the PNR site was suspended in November 2018 after Cuadrilla was beset by regular earthquakes and was unable to proceed with the frack.

Cuadrilla recently restarted work at the Preston New Road site.

Fracking is a process where water, sand and chemicals are

pumped into rock as a high volume deep underground—releasing gas trapped in rock formations.

Campaigners have been fighting against Cuadrilla’s fracking plans, saying they would trigger earthquakes.

They have been proved right. The site has felt more than 90 earthquakes since fracking resumed on 15 August.

Fracking in Lancashire

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

UNITY WITH LIBERALS IS A BAD DEAL FOR WORKERS

BORIS JOHNSON would use the shock of a no-deal Brexit to push through more austerity and racism. But the latest “cross party” bid to stop it would be a gift to Tory right wingers, the far right and big business.

Jeremy Corbyn planned to meet other opposition party leaders and MPs on Thursday to discuss blocking Johnson’s no-deal Brexit. His preferred scenario would involve bringing down Johnson’s government with a vote of no confidence leading a new “caretaker” government.

But the dangers of uniting with “anyone but Boris” were becoming clear on Tuesday.

The Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party were already dictating their preconditions for supporting Corbyn.

Plaid Cymru leader Adam Price made clear that he would not support a general election unless Corbyn made a “totally unqualified commitment to Remain”.

Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson went further, saying her party would not accept Corbyn as an interim prime minister. And former Tory, Nick Bowles MP, said

Corbyn would have to secure an Article 50 extension from European Union (EU) leaders before calling a general election. This would delay Britain leaving.

The Lib Dems and Remain-supporting Tories aren’t concerned about the impact of a no-deal Brexit on workers’ and migrants’ rights.

They have spent the last decade pushing through austerity and racism.

They want to stay in the EU single market because it protects big business. When they tell Corbyn to “put the country before the party,” they mean the interests of the rich.

Big business interests would

“The dangers of uniting with ‘anyone but Boris’ were becoming clear this week

but none of the discussions will lead to real change. Taking the sort of action needed to avert climate catastrophe would mean addressing its cause.

It’s the capitalist system that burns up fossil fuels, destroys environments and causes massive waste in the name of profit.

Leaders, such Brazil’s president Jair Bolsonaro and Donald Trump, deny that their actions are having any effect on the planet.

We can’t rely on bosses and governments to put a halt to

call the shots. And lining up with liberals would strengthen the hard right Brexit Party’s attempts to present itself as standing up to the establishment.

Johnson refused to rule out suspending parliament, which would stop MPs getting in his way.

Labour said that would be one of the biggest abuses of power in living memory.

The Brexit shambles has been full of anti-democratic outrages. Ordinary people have been reduced to spectators.

Labour and the trade union leaders have failed to call the sort of action—mass protests and strikes—that could bring down the Tories.

Any version of Brexit will be bad for ordinary people so long as it’s based on the interests of the bosses.

A Brexit that defends and extends migrants’ rights, and opposes austerity and privatisation, could be an alternative to both right wing Leave and Remain.

The answer is to unite working class people around class politics, and build action the streets and workplaces against the Tories, bosses and racists.

GET FIRED UP FOR STRIKES

IN JUST three weeks, people could walk out of their workplaces worldwide to join the strike for the climate on Friday 20 September.

The need for action has never been greater.

The Amazon rainforests are burning, people are being forced to flee their homes and July 2019 is officially the hottest month ever recorded on earth.

World leaders met last weekend at the G7 summit. Climate change was on the table

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Extinction Rebellion prepares for ‘rebel risings’

EXTINCTION Rebellion (XR) activists are gearing up for “Rebel Risings” of protest, debate and action across Britain.

The biggest is set to be the “Northern Rebellion” in Manchester—a four-day occupation in the city centre from Friday of this week.

Martin Empson from the Campaign against Climate Change trade union group is leading a training session on trade unions and climate change at the Manchester rising.

He told Socialist Worker

the Northern Rebellion was a critical opportunity to “discuss the alternatives to capitalism’s climate crisis”. “Millions of people around the world are watching the environmental news with horror,” he said.

Radical

“But there is a growing radical movement.

“Everyone from anti-racists and environmentalists, to socialists and trade unionists are welcome to come and join in what is going to be an inspiring event.”

There are one and two-day events planned in Aberdeen, Cambridge, north London, Devon and Brighton for next month.

The regional events are to prepare activists for the 20 September global climate strike and the Autumn Rebellion in London in October.

Meanwhile, in London, three XR activists have been convicted after being arrested on protests earlier this year.

They were the first activists to stand trial as a group from charges related to April’s ten-day

International Rebellion occupation.

Patrick Thelwell, Peter Scott, and Samuel Elmore were charged with offences including obstructing a highway and obstructing police.

They were also charged with breaching Section 14 of the Public Order Act, which was used to break up protests in parts of central London in April. Many more now face similar charges.

The Rebel Risings are set to be key events in the upcoming months of climate action—everyone should go and be part of the action.

Go to bit.ly/RebelRisings

ANALYSIS

TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS



Why the world isn't populists v centrists

WORLD LEADERS are supposed to present a united face at the annual G7 summit of powerful countries. But for the second year running, Donald Trump made sure their rivalries were on show for all to see.

For much of the media the story is one of right wing populists vs sensible “centrist” politicians of the European Union (EU). It's an alluring analysis for liberals and some on the left.

On the face of it, the G7's big disagreements over the burning Amazon rainforests, the Iranian nuclear deal and the trade war between the US and China confirm their take.

Trump, a well-documented climate change denier, isn't bothered about the Amazon. After all, his ally—far right Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro—gave the green light for big business to intensify the destruction of the rainforest.

Both are countered by centrist French president Emmanuel Macron. He threatened to block the EU-Mecosur Free Trade Agreement—which would remove tariffs between the EU and Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay—unless Bolsonaro took more decisive action.

But this is where the liberals' supposed difference with Trump and Bolsonaro falls down.

German chancellor Angela Merkel was happy to make all the right noises about the Amazon last month. She threatened to withdraw German aid for persevering the rainforest unless Bolsonaro agreed to tackle deforestation.

But when Macron upped the stakes, Merkel pulled rank on him—proof that when the crunch comes, the interests of German capital trump those of the rainforests.

German big business relies on selling high-end industrial goods, and Brazil is an increasingly important trading partner. In 2018 exports to Brazil were worth almost £9 billion, an increase of over 10 percent on the previous year.

France has much less economic skin in the game.

Merkel's pronouncement means Macron and the rest of the EU are unlikely to back up their words with action.

Compete

The whole episode is proof that the EU is not a group of states that cooperate on an equal footing. It is a regional capitalist block, with German economic muscle at its core. That power helps member states compete with larger rivals on the world stage. But it also means that the interests of German capital dominate the EU and determine many of its political priorities.

The second disagreement at the G7—Trump's trade war with China—further shows the centrists' hypocrisy.

Merkel has made a lot of Trump and China slapping huge tariffs on one another's products. But the EU is itself a huge protectionist outfit.

The disagreement between the EU and the US is not about principle. Again, it's all down to profits.

While Chinese growth is officially at 6 percent, the reality is much more grim. Industrial production hit a 17 year low in July, and US tariffs on steel and other manufactured goods are making the situation worse. China's currency, the yuan, sunk by around 4 percent in August to its lowest point in more than 11 years, making imports more expensive.

This poses a particular problem for Germany, which sells large amounts of advanced machinery to Chinese firms.

And the problems facing Chinese capitalism risk triggering a wider global slowdown, with indications that it could be deeper and longer than in 2007-08.

Trump was one of the political aftershocks of the last crisis, but it was the centrists that opened the door to far nastier right wing forces.

Merkel and Macron are presented as a bulwark against Trump. But they are the ones who pushed through punishing austerity and stoked racism against migrants and Muslims. And it's their system that means the planet is burning, including large-scale deforestation in the Amazon.

Right wing thugs, such as Trump, are dangerous outgrowths of the crises of capitalism and pose as a solution.

But when liberals look at the G7, they hanker for a return to business as usual. That's not possible or desirable. And defending a decaying status quo that's failed working class people is no way to beat the right.

Fighting for a socialist alternative that puts people and planet first is our best chance.



PROTESTING AT the DSEI arms fair in London in 2017

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Warmongers to descend on London 'festival of violence'

by GABBY THORPE

REPRESENTATIVES of some of the world's most brutal regimes are set to descend on London next week.

The warmongers and torturers are heading to one of the world's biggest arms fairs—the Defence and Security Equipment International fair (DSEI). Over 1,000 companies will sell arms to over 30,000 attendees from around the world.

Those buying include Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia—countries that have all been named for human rights abuses by the United Nations.

Campaigners have announced two weeks of protests around the Excel exhibition centre in London's Docklands, where the fair is set to take place.

Bloody

The long, bloody war in Yemen shows why they are right to demonstrate.

Since Saudi Arabia started bombing Yemen in 2014 the British government has licenced over £5 billion in weapons to the regime.

Estimates of those killed range from 10,000 to more than 70,000, the vast majority being Yemenis and an estimated two-thirds of those from Saudi-led air strikes.

Arms sales to Saudi Arabia

were ruled unlawful by the court of appeal in June. But the government has chosen to ignore the backlash by insisting on having human rights abusers at DSEI.

Among those exhibiting are MBDA and Raytheon—companies based in Scotland which both make arms used in the war in Yemen.

Outsourcing contractor Serco is also exhibiting.

A company statement on the DSEI website says, “As an international company with both civil and military space



Paul Sweeney MP

and defence expertise, we are proud to be a leading service provider in this exciting sector.”

But Serco is the firm that recently came under fire for its shocking mistreatment of asylum seekers in Glasgow.

Labour MP for Glasgow East, Paul Sweeney has condemned Serco's decision to exhibit at DSEI.

He said, “That Serco seeks to profit from conflict while also earning income from the refugees displaced by those very conflicts throws into sharp focus the mercenary exploitation of unscrupulous capitalism.”

Crass

“It is a crass move that will stick in the throats of the thousands of Glaswegians who stand shoulder to shoulder with the asylum seekers Serco is in the process of throwing out on the street.”

DSEI is filled to the brim with companies just like Serco.

Protesters joining the action outside the Excel centre next week will be joined by anti-racist activists from Scotland who have been involved in trying to end Serco's racist evictions.

The protests will include vigils, workshops, live music and blockades to prevent exhibitors and attendees from entering the centre.

For more information on Stop the Arms Fair, visit bit.ly/stopdsei19

Lords' lucrative lunches

ARMS FIRMS due to attend the DSEI festival of violence gave MPs more than £60,000 in donations in 2018.

They have been lavishing MPs and members of the House of Lords with gifts of expensive breakfasts, lunches and dinners, outings and overnight stays.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Arms Trade—a group funded by arms manufacturers—is behind much of the courting.

At least 13 lords have shares in companies exhibiting at DSEI, whilst 10 hold directorships or are employed by the companies.

Andrew Smith, from Campaign Against the Arms Trade, said, “None of this could happen without the active support of Government.”

“Civil servants will roll out the red carpet and be on hand to welcome delegations. Meanwhile, Government ministers will take to the stage to announce new deals.”



Prince Mohammed Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia will be buying

Tory refugee clampdown spells disaster in France

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

THE TORIES are preparing for a fresh clampdown on refugees trapped at Britain's border in Calais in northern France.

Boris Johnson threatened last Friday to deport anyone who made it across the English Channel.

He warned, "If you come illegally, you are an illegal migrant and the law will treat you as such. We will send you back."

Johnson's threat came as home secretary Priti Patel and French interior minister Christophe Castaner met to discuss tightening border security.

The Tories and the right wing press want to manufacture another racist scare over the number of refugees trying to make it across the channel.

UK Border Force (UKBF) patrol vessels intercepted four small boats off the south coast last Thursday.

There were a total of 37 refugees, including six children, on board.

The number of refugees trying to make it to Britain is tiny compared to those who want to settle elsewhere in Europe.

Some 539 people attempted to cross the Channel in 2018 compared with 115,000 that tried to make it across the Mediterranean Sea.

A slight increase over the past year reflects how the authorities are making life harder for refugees in northern France.

A British charity volunteer in northern France told Socialist Worker that a Home Office delegation had toured the refugee settlement in Dunkirk last week.

They said, "The delegation went around handing out leaflets in English and Kurdish, telling people not to attempt the crossing to Britain."

"They were aided by the local authorities and the police."

Closure

In Dunkirk the authorities have ordered the closure of the gymnasium—which around 800 mainly Kurdish refugees rely on for shelter and toilet facilities.

The volunteer said, "We're hearing that they have been told that they could have accommodation in France."

This means they will probably be bussed out."

Meanwhile, French police raided the one of the biggest refugee settlements near the Verrotieres Road in Calais last week.

This site has included some of the poorest refugees living in northern France.

The volunteer described how refugees living there are being "squeezed into a smaller and smaller space". Police also "stole



REFUGEES IN Dunkirk

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

everything" at one of the smaller Afghan settlements in Calais.

"There are two small tents between 25 people," said the volunteer, "a few managed to save some a sleeping bag."

Volunteers fear that police are likely to raid one of the other small settlements, where refugees from Eritrea shelter.

The refugees in the northern France and neighbouring Belgium have fled war, poverty and dictatorship.

The only solution is to open the border and let refugees in safely.



On other pages...

Muslims are suffering at the hands of the Terrorism Act >>Page 17

Let migrants into Britain

THE TORIES will not be able to stop free movement the day after a no-deal Brexit, according to the Migration Observatory.

It said the Tories have not outlined new immigration rules to replace free movement for EU migrants. Two thirds of the three million European nationals already living in Britain haven't registered to stay in the country after Brexit.

And the deadline has been brought forward to

31 December 2020—yet there is already a backlog of 100,000 applications.

Some right wing Tories see a no-deal Brexit as a chance to push through more austerity and racism.

The problems pointed out by the Migration Observatory are unlikely to stop them.

Migrants should be given an automatic right to remain with the same rights.

Anti-racists must fight to defend free movement.

IN BRIEF

Robinson Nazis outnumbered

ANTI-FASCISTS outnumbered supporters of jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson in central London on Saturday of last week.

Around 150 people protested against 70 fascists near BBC Broadcasting House on Portland Place. The two counter-protests were organised by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism, and the London Antifascist Assembly.

Supporters of SUTR gathered outside Oxford Circus Tube station then marched to Portland Place.

They joined supporters of the London Antifascist Assembly on the other side of the road to where the fascists were gathering outside the BBC.

SUTR led a march to the Polish Embassy to stand in solidarity with an LGBT+ protest against Poland's right wing government (see page 18).

They joined forces and marched back down to the BBC.

Search laws target Carnival

COPS ARRESTED almost 100 people at Notting Hill Carnival in west London over the weekend. The police had put a Section 60 notice in place for the Carnival and the nearby Harrow Road.

Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act allows cops to use stop and search powers in a designated area without any grounds for suspicion.

Black people are nine times



On the parade at Carnival

more likely than white people to be stopped and searched.

This rises to 40 times more likely when police use stop and search powers under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

Tory home secretary Priti Patel wants to give cops more freedom to use Section 60 orders.

They will now be able to use them in a designated area "without needing serious grounds for suspicion if serious violence is anticipated". And less senior officers will be able to authorise their use.

This will mean more harassment of black people. Love Music Hate Racism had a float on the carnival parade.



Israel drone strikes are a threat to Middle East

Israel's bombings across the region are part of a bigger struggle against rival Iran, writes Nick Clark

ISRAEL LAUNCHED air strikes across the Middle East last weekend and early this week, ramping up the threat of a devastating war with Iran.

Israeli drones and warplanes attacked sites in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, targeting groups and militias linked to Iran.

Lebanon's president Michel Aoun said drone attacks on capital city Beirut were like "a declaration of war." And a coalition of politicians in Iraq said a similar strike there was "a declaration of war on Iraq and its people".

Israel launched its offensive late on Saturday night with a strike on a military base in neighbouring Syria, close to the capital Damascus.

It said the strike, which killed five people, targeted the Iranian military group the Revolutionary Guards Corp.

Then, on Sunday, the Lebanese government claimed that two Israeli drones attacked a site in the south of Beirut. The attack was aimed at Hizbollah, an armed political movement in Lebanon supported by Iran.

General

A further attack apparently targeted a Palestinian group allied to Hizbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command.

Hizbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah said the attack was "a very, very dangerous development," and threatened to retaliate. He added that it was Israel's biggest attack since it invaded Lebanon in 2006.

An Israeli drone attack in Iraq, also on Sunday, targeted armed groups represented in the Iraqi parliament and supported by Iran.

Israel has launched hundreds of attacks against Iranian-backed forces in Syria and, increasingly, Iraq. But the latest strikes appear to mark an escalation.

Whereas Israel normally denies responsibility for specific attacks, this time prime minister Binyamin

BACK STORY

US president Donald Trump has ramped up tensions with Iran

● He ordered 1,000 more US soldiers to the Middle East earlier this year

● He threatened missile strikes against Iran in June

● And he created a crisis when British marines captured an Iranian oil tanker at the US's request

● It's all about trying to curb Iran's growing influence

Netanyahu boasted about his military success. "Iran has no immunity anywhere," Netanyahu said. "Our forces operate in every sector against the Iranian aggression. I have directed that our forces be prepared for any scenario."

"We will continue to take determined and responsible action against Iran and its proxies for the security of Israel."

Netanyahu will hope that the attacks benefit him in upcoming Israeli elections, set to take place on 17 September. He often relies on his reputation as a defender of Israel's "security" against Iran, as well as against Palestinians.

But the attacks are really about a bigger struggle between Iran and the US. They come in the wake of threats and increased aggression against Iran by Donald Trump.

Trump sees the growth of Iran's political and military power in Iraq and Syria as a threat to the US's dominance in the Middle East. He wants the US's allies in the Middle East to confront Iran on his behalf.

Israel stepped up its attacks on Iranian forces in Syria after Trump began withdrawing US troops from the country in December last year.

It has more recently said it would "extend" its attacks to forces in Iraq.

These latest strikes show how that struggle to control the Middle East could throw the whole region into war.

LEBANESE OFFICIALS inspect the site of Israeli drone attacks

UNITED STATES

Trump plan for indefinite detention

by GABBY THORPE

DONALD TRUMP unveiled new rules last Wednesday that would allow migrants to be locked up indefinitely

US border authorities could detain migrants while their asylum claim is considered.

The new rules come as Trump is reported to be considering ending birthright citizenship.

Hundreds of people, who gained US citizenship because they were born in the US, could be deported back to their parents' countries.

Joann Bautista of the National

Immigrant Justice Centre said that Trump's administration has "once more shown their complete disregard for the lives of immigrants and refugees".

She said, "We are dismayed that the administration has chosen to actually follow through with this policy, which we fear will lead to future tragedies."

Trump hopes that the policy will deter more migrants from South America from coming into the US.

But it will only lead to more horrific treatment in detainment and deportation of more families.



Migrants at the US border

GERMANY

Anti-fascists march ahead of state elections

AROUND 35,000 anti-racists marched under the banner of "Unteilbar—indivisible—in Dresden, eastern Germany, last Saturday.

The march took place ahead of regional elections in the eastern states of Saxony and Brandenburg, which are likely to see gains for the far right AfD.

The party is currently polling 24 percent in Saxony and 22 percent in Brandenburg—the same as the Labour-type SPD. Christine



Christine Buchholz speaks to the march

Buchholz of the left wing Die Linke party told Socialist Worker the march was "an important signal against the AfD one week before the elections".

The protest included people from a wide range of political backgrounds, including anti-racism activists, trade unions, political parties and environmental groups. Further anti-fascist actions are expected to take place in Germany in the run up to the elections this week.

How we defied the US Nazis

OVER 1,000 anti-fascist protestors in the US held a vibrant and joyful rally in downtown Portland, Oregon, earlier this month—outnumbering a bunch of Nazi thugs.

The Proud Boys—a Nazi street gang—had called a national demonstration “against terrorism”.

It was meant to coincide with the anniversary of Charlottesville—a fascist demonstration that led to the murder of anti-racist activist and trade unionist Heather Heyer.

Led by Portland’s mayor, Ted Wheeler, the liberal establishment of Portland warned of a repeat of the deadly violence in Charlottesville.

They encouraged people to stay home.

But a coalition of left wing activists under the Pop Mob banner ignored the fear mongering.

They organised a Portlanders Unite to Stand Against Hate rally at the city’s waterfront.

In common with previous demonstrations the police facilitated the fascists.

Cops organised transport by public school busses, protection, and closed off a bridge for their exclusive use.

The Pop Mob rally was a festival of dancing, singing, and fancy dress.

Speakers spoke of their anger at the liberal leadership of the city and the need for ordinary people to organise against fascism.

Sean Cumming
Portland



I witnessed bravery against cops’ violence in Hong Kong

I WAS lucky to witness the incredible protest in Hong Kong airport earlier this month.

I saw it the day before protesters succeeded in shutting down the whole airport, cancelling all departures.

Protesters sang, “Can you hear the people sing?” from the musical Les Miserables. They handed leaflets to travellers and held signs saying, “Sorry for the inconvenience, but we are fighting for our home.”

I didn’t see events in the following days, when the police turned up. But the incredibly moving display I witnessed was far from violent or a danger to civilians, as the Hong Kong

government has branded protests.

The only violence I witnessed in my time there came from the police. I saw them use teargas against a peaceful assembly I attended in working class neighbourhood Wong Tai Sin.

As the protests intensify and so does the repression, the words of a friend and Hong Kong activist ring true.

“Democracy is not what the powerful grants you, it’s a gruelling daily process that every civilian needs to fight for day after day,” she said.

“I think any peaceful and rational actions are apparently not working now, as you can see the demands from the peaceful

protesters all fall on deaf ears.”

She believes that, “Hong Kongers still face a lot of challenges. When the society gets more and more polarised, everyone is forced to choose a side.

“Society will end up with either people challenging or even overthrowing tyranny,” she says.

“Or some people—especially the irresolute—will become more frustrated and disappointed by the ordeal and become cynical.”

These next few weeks will be decisive for the movement. And they will need our solidarity to keep up their fight. Hong Kong people—keep fighting!

Oisín Challen Flynn
South London

How can we defend our migrant co-workers?

HOW WILL the trade union movement react when the first of its members is refused re-entry to Britain after a trip back to an EU country?

I would hope an immediate strike in the workplace to protect our fellow members should be organised.

Home secretary Priti Patel threatens on 1 November to exclude people who are our fellow workers and members of our communities. This will make their lives here more

precarious. Maybe I’ve missed it. But I haven’t seen Dave Prentis of Unison or Len McCluskey of Unite saying much about how Britain’s biggest unions are going to defend their members.

So it must be time to raise this issue in union branches and workplaces before it is too late. We can’t allow a wedge to be driven into the working class by any more scapegoating.

Graeme Cumming
Prestwick

Tarantino film is better than you say

WE DISAGREED with Gabby Thorpe’s review of Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (Socialist Worker, 21 August).

Thorpe describes a “plotless meander through Los Angeles”. But the slower pace of the film is essential to the “plot”.

It allows us to identify with various characters, and builds up a sense of apparent calm before the storm.

Tarantino evocatively captures some sense of the hedonistic spirit of the 1960s “counter-culture”,



Quentin Tarantino

which though oppositional was also contradictory—hence aspects of sexism.

Tarantino does not represent either Sharon Tate or the young Manson hippie as “stereotypically

ditzy women”. Margot Robbie brilliantly portrays Tate as someone who was almost “too innocent for this world”. But we also see Tate’s dedication to her craft as an actor.

The young hippie played by Margaret Qualley expresses white middle class disillusion with American values and brings politics into the film.

We encourage readers of Socialist Worker to check out the film for themselves.

Talat Ahmed, Christian Høgsbjerg
By email

Just a thought...

Right or wrong in Hong Kong?

THE PROTESTS in Hong Kong looks like another colour revolution.

Started with good intention and right causes, but being hijacked by Western powers.

Seshadri Srinivas
On Facebook

■ WHY IS Socialist Worker siding with pro-right wing capitalist bootlickers of US regime change operations?

David Raun
On Facebook

■ THANK YOU Socialist Worker for supporting the Hong Kong protests. Keep fighting!

Lin Lam
On Twitter

Support the Asda workers

GOOD ON the Asda workers fighting against new, worse contracts—and good luck to them.

Julie Devaney
On Facebook

Hope Johnson is humiliated

BORIS Johnson recently described the French as “behaving like turds”.

I hope Emmanuel Macron will treat Boris Johnson with equal contempt and send him home humiliated.

John Costello
Wolverhampton

Corbyn should back Brexit

I AGREED with your editorial last week (Corbyn’s confusion over the European Union emboldens the right, Socialist Worker 21 August).

Corbyn should return to his old stance of opposing the European Union.

Andres Viveros
On Facebook

The left can’t fix Frontex

NINA FENWICK says the left should back remaining in the EU, and reform its brutal Frontex border guards (Letters, 21 August).

But Frontex reflects what the EU is all about—protecting the interests of European capitalists against the rest of the world, including refugees.

Laura Piper
Blackpool

AS REPORT SLAMS ‘TEMPORARY HOMES,’ RESIDENT SPEAKS OUT LIFE IN A CONTAINER IS LIKE A PRISON

Councils warehousing poor people in disused office blocks are now putting them in shipping containers. Gabby Thorpe spoke to residents at one west London development about life on the frontline of the housing crisis

IT’S A horrifying vision of housing for the future—and it could be happening near you. People in desperate need of housing have been forced to live in converted shipping containers in Hanwell, on the outskirts of London.

Residents there sleep in mouldy beds. Parents have to share beds with older children and wash younger ones in the sink. They face unbearable heat in the summer and freezing temperatures in the winter.

It’s a snapshot of what the Tories, councils and developers have in store for working class people as the housing crisis gets worse. It’s already happening in other cities—and is likely to spread.

At least 130 people live at the structure in the borough of Ealing, west London. Of its 34 units, the largest one—meant to house six people—has just two bedrooms.

Lulu Abu Baker has lived on the upper levels with her three children, aged between two and 12, since last December.

She used to work for Ealing council, but now cares full-time for her profoundly autistic son.

She told Socialist Worker, “I’m constantly worried that he’s going to run and hurt himself on the stairs.”

“I should have been given a container on the ground floor, but the council don’t think about what our needs are. It’s not safe for him. It’s not safe for anyone. No human should have to live here.”

The structure is made of wood and



metal and suffers from extreme temperatures in the summer and winter. Children there are at constant risk of getting ill when it gets cold.

There is little room for anything beyond beds and a kitchenette. And some cannot afford to keep paying for storage and have to pile up their belongings in the containers.

Many of the adults have to share their beds with children because there is no room. Lulu has the largest family on the estate, but the space she gets is no bigger than it would be for someone with one or two children.

She should be on the highest priority band of the housing register because of her son’s autism.

But the council is refusing to move her up from Band B—and it’s not the only way the authorities aren’t helping.

Permanent

Lulu was told she would have a permanent home 51 days after being placed in the shipping container. “I have asked the council numerous times when we will be rehoused,” she said.

“They said that the only way for us to get out of here is by using the bidding system for council housing. But I don’t have time to bid on houses, and when I do it’s not getting me anywhere.”

“My son is twelve and he takes up all of my time. Especially here, it’s a real struggle.”

Lulu’s experience is far from unique. Over 100,000 children are living in temporary accommodation, according



Refugees are stuffed into the £40 a night Maharaja Guesthouse, in west London, which is infested with vermin



IN THE cramped container camp in west London the temperature is always too hot or too cold. But the council takes little notice of those whose health cannot cope with the conditions

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



to the Children’s Commissioner’s Bleak Houses report published last week.

This includes converted shipping containers and office blocks—including one in the neighbouring borough of Brent. The report shows that it’s also happening in Cardiff, Bristol and Brighton—and is likely to spread.

Another resident said that living in the containers made raising children difficult. The containers only have small shower rooms.

“There’s no bathtub here,” she explained. “Originally I was washing my son in the sink.”

“But now I wash him on the floor—getting a cup and washing him that way—because he’s too big to fit in the sink.” The situation in Hanwell

isn’t just a housing issue. A majority of the people living in the structure are migrants with children. One resident—who had lived in the “jungle” refugee camp in Calais—said the living conditions are worse than in Eritrea.

“Sometimes it’s damp in here and there’s mould,” she said. “It’s green inside the windows and even on the bed. It’s better than Calais, but no one wishes to live inside a container especially with kids.”

The people housed in these structures are victims of racism.

One woman, staying in a B&B in Southall in the same borough, said she thought migrants’ living conditions were deliberate. “It’s part of the

hostile environment,” she said. “It’s as if they’re sending a message to us saying, if you can’t take it, go home.”

Refugees and migrants should have as much right to decent housing as anyone else living in Britain.

Ealing council has denied that the conditions are bad. But it’s clear that the containers are not safe to live in.

After the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, which killed at least 72 people, there was an overhaul of fire safety protocols. But at the shipping containers, there is only one gate and no fire exits.

So if the wooden slats at the base of the structure caught fire, the only staircase in and out would be overcome with smoke.

This means that residents could be left trapped inside their homes.

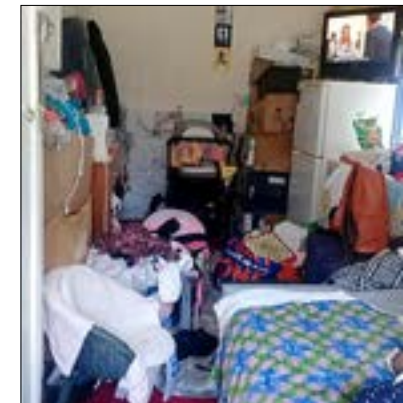
The council has put up netting to prevent pigeons from flocking on the site. But the birds get trapped behind it—causing another health risk.

This is another example of how the council’s claims amount to nothing. The Department for Communities and Local Government said that anyone who feels unsafe in their homes can request a review.

But lots of the people living in the shipping containers feel abandoned by the government. And the conditions in the shipping containers show the contempt Tories and housing bosses have for all working class people.

It’s appalling that people are housed in shipping containers and old office blocks, when safe, spacious, affordable housing should be a right for all working class people.

Refugees crammed into infested rooms



HORRIFIC CONDITIONS at the Maharaja Guesthouse in nearby Southall show how the Tories treat asylum seekers.

The Home Office uses the B&B to provide emergency accommodation.

Footage obtained by the Guardian newspaper last week revealed overcrowded rooms with thousands of cockroaches.

Families with up to four members were crammed into a room, and expected to share double beds.

People staying there have described instances of mice running across their children’s faces at night.

The accommodation is provided by the Home Office contractor for Wales and the South of England, Clearsprings Ready Homes. The rooms are priced from £40 a night—the same price as a three star B&B in the area meant for tourists.

Asylum seekers placed here are told that they will have access

to laundry facilities and places to sit and eat. But these facilities are not easily accessible to those living across the four buildings that make up the Maharaja Guesthouse.

Ealing Council has said it will look into the situation. For a lot of people staying at the Maharaja, this could mean being put into shipping containers like the ones in Hanwell.

Question

The guesthouse scandal comes at a time when the Home Office is putting into place new accommodation contracts. This is because housing practices were brought into question as a result of issues similar to those of Southall.

The new contracts are unlikely to lead to improvements.

In Glasgow it means that 300 asylum seekers face eviction by contractor Serco at the end of this month. The new landlord, Mears Housing, has demanded to take over empty properties.

Councils blame Tories but refuse to fight

585,000

Children in Britain are homeless or are at risk of homelessness

375,000

Children in families in Britain that are at financial risk of becoming homeless

90,000

Children in Britain are ‘sofa surfing’

COUNCILS CLAIM that shipping containers are an “innovative” solution to the housing crisis.

The website for the Hanwell project is boastful about it.

The Head of Allocations and Accommodation says, “The concept of providing accommodation on sites we own—which are quick and affordable to build—is exciting.”

“We’ve learned a lot from this first project and there were many sceptics.”

“So it’s quite nice to counter any negativity with a solution which is local, fit for purpose and as near as cost neutral as we can get.”

This attitude towards people’s living situation exposes a rotten truth at the heart of the housing crisis. Luxury flats for the rich

take up space and resources while homeless people are left forgotten.

Other council officials are less

boastful, but claim nothing can be done because the Tories have imposed cuts on local government.

A spokesperson for Ealing council said, “We have no choice but to use temporary accommodation to house the sheer volume of homeless households that present to us.”

Councils should not convert shipping containers into barely tolerable spaces for migrants and the poorest to live in.

It’s a disgrace that many of the councils housing people in shipping containers and office blocks are run by Labour.

They should fight alongside ordinary people to demand government puts resources into building permanent, safe and affordable homes for everyone.

We need millions of new council houses and stringent control of private landlords.



After Grenfell—how can we fight for the homes we need?

A **Socialist Worker** pamphlet by Alistair Farrow

Available for £2 from Socialist Worker sellers or contact Socialist Worker’s national office

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email enquiries@swp.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BIRMINGHAM

What are the origins of women's oppression?

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm,
The Church at Carrs Lane,
Carrs Ln,
B4 7SX

BOLTON

Heading for extinction—the destruction of the natural world

Wed 25 Sep, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRISTOL

Brazil under Bolsonaro—reaction and resistance one year on

Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Stop Modi's repression—how can Kashmir be free?

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

Marxism and anarchism

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Trump and imperialism—will he start a war with Iran?

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

System change not climate change

Thu 26 Sep, 8pm,
Oyster Room, Hythe
Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

COVENTRY

Orban, Hungary and the rise of the far right

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

DUNDEE

Why the working class is the most revolutionary class

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Who decides the limits of free speech?

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



THE STATE has mobilised against the protesters

The Hong Kong resistance and the impact on China

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

LONDON: HACKNEY

Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

SWANSEA

Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

GLASGOW

Repression and resistance—where next for the Sudanese revolution?

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Women and the far right

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Organising against racism & climate chaos—what do socialists say?

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

HULL

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

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Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Peterloo—the fight for democracy and freedom

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
The Tapestry,
68-76 Kempston St,
L3 8HL

LONDON: HARINGEY

How can socialists influence the political situation in Britain today?

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Back to school—capitalism and the role of education

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON: NEWHAM

Why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 4 Sep, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

Why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 4 Sep, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd
(near Effra Rd, facing
Windrush Square),
Brixton,
SW2 1EP

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Victor Serge—artist and Russian revolutionary

Wed 4 Sep, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
SE8 4RH

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Angela Davis—women, race and class

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
E2 7EG

LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST Lenin, the state and revolution

Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

LUTON & ST ALBANS

Can Corbynomics work?

Thu 19 Sep, 7.30pm,
Stockwood Hotel,
41-43 Stockwood Crescent
(enter via London Rd car park),
Luton
LU1 3SS

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Gandhi, non-violence and civil disobedience

Wed 4 Sep, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NEWCASTLE

Why we need a revolutionary party

Wed 4 Sep, 7pm,
Floor 2, Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

NORWICH

Scottish independence—what do we say about class and nation?

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Too many people? Climate change and the myth of overpopulation

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way,
OX4 1YH

PORTSMOUTH

Do we need violence to get rid of capitalism?

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Explaining the inexplicable—understanding the Holocaust

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

SHEFFIELD AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Organising against racism & climate chaos—what do socialists say?

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
Central United Reform Church,
60 Norfolk St,
S1 2JB

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE Rebellion, disobedience and arrests—what's the role of the police?

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Brexit, borders and the case for a united Ireland

Wed 4 Sep, 7.15pm,
Light House,
Suite 16,
Chubb Building,
Fryer St,
WV1 1HT

YORK

Repression and resistance—where next for the Sudanese revolution?

Wed 4 Sep, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORCHESTER

Going beyond the binary—Marxism, gender and trans politics

Sat 7 Sep, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ

Organised by Dorset Socialists

GLASGOW

Marxism in Scotland 2019—Ideas to Change the World

Sat 9 Nov, 10am,
Renfield St Stephens Centre,
260 Bath St,
G2 4JP

Themes include: Independence & the break-up of the British state • Resisting racism, fascism & the far right • System change not climate change • #MeToo—challenging sexism and the system • Palestine, revolution in North Africa & imperialism

OXFORD

Stop Climate Breakdown—build the Global Strike #S20

Thu 5 Sep, 7pm,
Oxford Town Hall,
St Aldate's,
OX1 1BX
Speaker: George Monbiot,
Ian Hodson (BFAWU
President), Suzanne Jeffery
(Campaign against Climate
Change), Keith Hamilton
(CWU South Central)

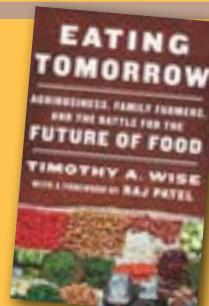
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£8



Eating Tomorrow
By Timothy Wise
£24



Too Many People?
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Simon Butler, £13.99

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Crime drama tale of good cops, or something darker?

New TV drama, *A Confession*, seemingly casts the police in a good light, but grows more sinister and promises troubling questions, says **Sadie Robinson**

A CONFESSION starts by showing police having a hard time. A cop is called to work in the early hours, dragged away from a weekend break with his partner.

Then a deputy chief constable, Ray, complains that he is “fucked” due to allegations of “sexual misconduct”. He looks broken and dishevelled. Later events make Ray appear even more of a victim.

Detective superintendent Steve Fulcher, played by Martin Freeman, tells Ray that sexist “banter” isn’t acceptable. But he’s still sympathetic.

This new ITV six-part drama tells the story of a real case that saw Fulcher sacked after breaking rules to catch a killer.

A young woman, Sian, goes missing after a night out. A big group of officers discuss how to find her. They are even going to use a helicopter—at great cost—to help, even though Sian has only been missing for a few hours.

You wonder how realistic this is. But does that matter? Lots of good dramas aren’t realistic. Still, I felt uneasy about whether the point is to put cops in a positive light.

We are given an impression of caring cops, and the first episode shows them generally as non-judgemental and efficient. But again, that doesn’t necessarily make for a bad programme. Think of *Columbo*.

Creeping

By the end of the first episode, things feel a bit more sinister. There is a creeping sense that women aren’t safe here.

Another character, Karen, is consumed by a hunt for her daughter Becky, who has been missing for years.

Karen regularly asks young women hanging out on the streets, who may be working as prostitutes, if they have seen Becky. She takes them sandwiches, they come across as vulnerable.

Writer Jeff Pope said the story raises questions about rights because Fulcher denied a man his “rights as a suspect”.

“Should Fulcher have been praised as a courageous officer or lose his career for riding roughshod over the law?” he asked.

The first episode was a bit hard to get into. But by the end, I wanted to see what happens next. There are subtle hints at the darker side of various characters, and what secrets they might be hiding.

A Confession tells the story of a good cop, but it might say more than that too.

A Confession starts 9pm on Monday 2 September, ITV1



ARTWORK FOR the streets—a banner at the Durham Miners’ Gala

Celebrating our history and strength

DOCUMENTARY

THE BIG MEETING

In cinemas from 6 September.

Go to galafilm.co.uk/screenings

DANIEL DRAPER’S documentary *The Big Meeting* follows the experiences of local people attending last year’s Durham Miners’ Gala.

Despite the death of the coal industry, the *Big Meeting* captures a spirit of class struggle that is alive and relevant today—a tradition that inspires future generations.

The documentary touches on the role that women played during the Miners’ Strike, and the internationalism of the *Big Meeting*.

It describes the Durham Miners’ Association’s support of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, to the Freedom for Ocalan campaign that campaigns for Kurdish liberation.

The film also references the physical and symbolic power of the Gala.

It likens the procession of hundreds of thousands of people marching through the streets to

“a living organism,” capturing the collective force of our movement.

The banners themselves are described as the “illustrated history of class struggle”, including one from Chopwell Village featuring portraits of Marx, Lenin and the Irish revolutionary James Connolly.

As one commentator remarks, the banners are artwork with “soul”. It’s artwork that does not belong in galleries or museums—but artwork that belongs to our streets.

Rachel Meenan

TELEVISION

THE CAPTURE

Starts 9pm, Tuesday
3 September, BBC1

THE CAPTURE is a thriller made for the “post truth” era.

Soldier Shaun Emery, played by Callum Turner, has just got out of prison. He’s been convicted of the murder of a wounded Taliban fighter, all caught on helmet camera.

Similarities with the real-life case of Alexander Blackman—the soldier who actually did kill a wounded, unarmed Taliban fighter—are unmistakable.

Emery gets off. The video evidence was dodgy. But soon he’s accused of yet another violent crime—and yet again the evidence is footage he says doesn’t show the truth.

The vision of society here is one full of technology that monitors and records almost everything we do. From the facial recognition software in police monitoring suites, to a games console in a child’s bedroom.

All of it can be used to catch us out, trip us up—or misrepresent us.

There’s a feeling of unease, growing into distrust and paranoia, right from the very beginning. The constant



suggestion that nothing is what it appears to be on the surface asks us to pay close attention.

What was on that email on the detective Rachel Carey’s computer screen, for instance?

By the time we take notice, it’s already gone.

Soon we start to scrutinise and second guess everything on screen and, eventually, our own interpretation.

The programme tries to show how false representation is used to skew our interpretation.

But it also starts to ask a question. Can technology and surveillance ever be trusted to give a clear objective version of truth when it’s presentation and interpretation that matters?

Celebrating his release, and surrounded by his mates, Emery realises that all of them still think he murdered the Afghan fighter. This is a show that demands constant scepticism.

Nick Clark

Defenders of the system portray capitalism as progressive. They insist there is a world of difference between brutal systems such as feudalism or slavery and modern capitalism.

A recent book turns this argument on its head. It shows how capitalism is built on slavery. And several innovations credited to industrial capitalists were key to making slavery profitable.

Accounting for Slavery by Caitlin Rosenthal looks at how sugar and cotton plantations organised and tracked production. It is a fascinating yet horrifying history of how planters saw the slaves they profited from—and how they drove up production.

Slaves who rebelled or failed to work hard enough faced brutal punishments. These included branding, removing ears and whipping and “literally rubbing salt in wounds”.

A racist ideology developed in order to justify the barbaric treatment of black slaves.

Extreme violence helped a tiny minority maintain power. But Rosenthal says accounting was also key.

The book looks in detail at plantation records and accounts from the Caribbean to the south of the US. Rosenthal argues that “by the end of the 18th century, practices on many plantations were becoming highly standardised”.

These include production methods associated with industrial capitalism.

Frederick Winslow Taylor is said to have founded the theory of “scientific management” during the 1880s and 1890s. This holds that bosses can get more out of workers by close monitoring and efficient labour processes.

Emerging

It’s assumed that modern management emerged on US railroads in 1860. But according to management scholar Bill Cooke, at that time 38,000 plantation overseers “were managing four million slaves”. And they were doing so “according to Taylorian principles”.

Like slave owners, Taylor thought workers spent too much time “in partial idleness, talking and half working, or actually doing nothing”.

He aimed to “learn what really constituted a full day’s work for a first class man”. Rosenthal says “more than half a century earlier” South Carolina planter Plowden CJ Weston had described his aims in “almost identical terms”.

Weston said, “In nothing does a good manager so much excel a bad one, as in being able to discern what a hand is capable of doing and in never attempting to make



SLAVES BEING sold at auction in 1880s Georgia, US

CAPITAL—BUILT ON SLAVERY

A book by Caitlin Rosenthal gives a horrific insight into how slavery played a key role in the birth of capitalist management methods, writes Sadie Robinson



A slave beaten badly

him do more.” Rosenthal says, “Systematic accounting practices thrived on plantations—not despite slavery but because of it.”

Some planters measured slaves’ progress three times a day and gave “small prizes” as incentives for them to pick more. The aim was to work out how much each slave could pick.

If slaves later fell short of this amount, they faced punishment. If they exceeded it, they would



Whenever they could, sellers concealed slaves’ efforts to escape

be expected to always pick this higher amount. Some “responded with subtle modes of resistance”. One of these was “sogering” or “pretending to work, and accomplishing as little as possible”.

Still, the slavers’ methods worked. Rosenthal describes “a tremendous increase in productivity during the sixty years preceding the US Civil War”.

“Between 1801 and 1862, the average amount of cotton picked per slave per day

increased about fourfold, or 2.3 percent per year.” This wasn’t due to new strains of cotton that were easier to pick.

Higher yields came about “because planters could calculate and enforce a faster rate of picking”.

So accounting turned the south of the US into “a vast laboratory for agricultural improvement”.

Sugar plantations involved a variety of tasks. Rosenthal cites studies showing “assembly-line production,” “subdivided tasks,” and “systematised shift work”.

“Sophisticated accounting techniques were not incidental to plantation slavery,” says Rosenthal.

Whole industries grew up to provide account books, journals and logs for planters.

Journals produced by Leapidge & Bailey stationers in London recorded land use, a daily diary, goods received, produce sold, slaves and livestock.

Humans were recorded in the same way as animals. Lists of slaves recorded their employment status, helping planters “detect shifting labour patterns as the seasons changed”.

Slaves were valued as units of capital. Their value was referred to as percentages of a “hand”. Full hands were the most valuable. Others would be referred to as a “quarter-hand” or a “half-hand”.

CHILDREN grew in value as they aged and planters valued their slaves from birth. Many years before their labour was measured, they were already entered into “account books as capital”.

“Slaves were, quite literally, human capital, whose value could appreciate or depreciate,” says Rosenthal.

The scale of slaves’ resistance could well be underestimated because revealing this would slash their value. “Whenever they could, sellers concealed slaves’ efforts to escape,” writes Rosenthal.

Valuing each slave meant they could “serve as collateral for loans”. They became interchangeable and standardised.

Rosenthal says all of this put southern slaveholders “at the cutting edge of nineteenth-century valuation practices”.

Other records also protected planters. Tools accounts were “tallied up frequently”, helping them “maintain a near monopoly on potential weapons”.

As Rosenthal explains, “One lost axe might be a sign of wastefulness or carelessness, but several missing in a short period could be a harbinger of violence or rebellion.”

She describes how slaves resisted.

“They defied planters’ efforts to reduce them to columns of capital and units of output. They ran away, they rebelled,

and they conspired to commit arson and murder.” Resistance sometimes meant losses for planters. But the system remained hugely profitable. “Planters earned fortunes not despite slavery but because of it,” says Rosenthal.

“During a period when labour turnover in free enterprises regularly reached 100 percent or more over the course of a year, Caribbean sugar planters experienced almost none,” she writes.

On Prospect Estate, turnover was less than 5 percent. Factory owners had to negotiate with workers—planters did not. The differences are clear from the accounts.

“On monthly reports, plantation managers filled in neat columns of numbers,” says Rosenthal. “Time books kept by factory owners hiring wage labourers are full of blanks.”

“Names changed from month to month because workers often quit.”

Accounting helped those fighting slavery too. Some used the descriptions of brutal punishments as ammunition.

Moves to abolish slavery transformed planters’ relationships with their workers into “market relationships”. They had to recruit and retain workers, and had much less control over their lives.

Rosenthal cites diaries from planters bemoaning their workers “roving all over the country” and refusing to work. One journal noted, “Hands in a stew. Uneasy. Apparently not satisfied.”

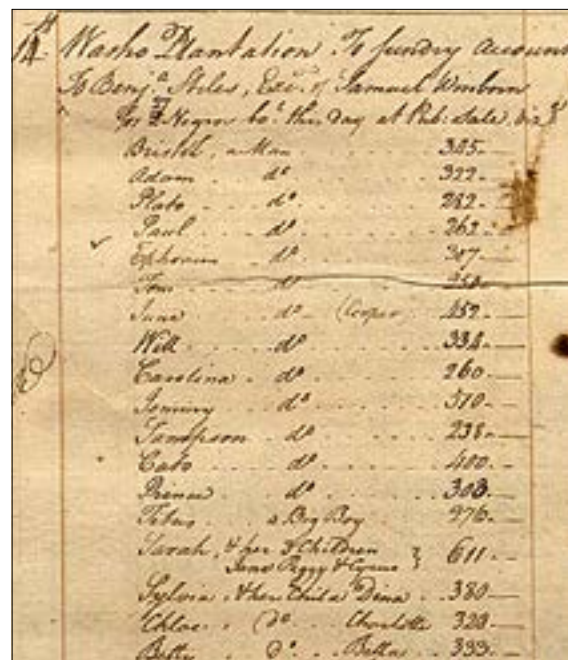
But planters “struggled to reassert control”. They imposed contracts that sought to control workers personal lives.

Widespread illiteracy meant workers couldn’t understand what they were signing. Former slave Louis Thomas from Missouri recalled, “They sent for all us hands to come to sign a contract.”

“He took my hand, put it on his pen, and signed my name himself.”

“I got mad as a wet hen about that agreement he read to me. So he tried to make me feel good saying he was going to give me half. I knowed better.”

The move away from slavery saw women and children work much less. Freed people “gained increased control over



HUMANS WERE listed like animals (top) and treated like human capital. While the slave owners housed themselves in luxury (above)

their lives” but “did not make large economic gains”.

The book doesn’t have all the answers. It doesn’t explain, for instance, why such a profitable system as slavery made way for other forms of production.

But it challenges many dominant ideas about capitalism, class and progress.

We are told that capitalism benefits everyone. But as Rosenthal says, “Growing the pie brings no guarantee about how it will be divided.”

She says modern narratives of capitalism “assume that vast wealth accumulated by a few accompanies improved circumstances for many”.

“The history of slavery’s capitalism warns against these expectations,” she writes.

READ MORE

● **Accounting for Slavery** by Caitlin Rosenthal £23.75 hardback (paperback out on 25 October)

● **A Hard Road to Travel** International Socialism journal article about 19th century racism in the US by Ken Olende <http://bit.ly/kenolende>

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



What is so special about going on strike?

Sadie Robinson looks at what is distinctive about workers striking and why it is an especially powerful form of resistance

EXTINCTION Rebellion’s recent actions have been a breath of fresh air. Blockades of central London bridges in April forced climate change to the top of the political agenda.

Now school climate strikers have called on workers to join a general strike for the climate on 20 September.

Revolutionaries see the call for strikes as a significant escalation for the movement—but why?

That’s because workers have a unique power under capitalism that other groups don’t have.

The revolutionary Karl Marx explained how the main divide in society is between bosses and workers, or a ruling class and a working class.

Bosses own the offices, factories and machinery. Workers are forced to sell their labour power to bosses to get by.

But the bosses don’t pay workers the full value of what they create.

They keep some of that value as profit.

And because capitalism is based on bosses competing to make profit, workers are very powerful.

Profits

Without their labour, profits don’t exist. Individually, workers take part in all kinds of political activities, such as joining demonstrations or direct action stunts.

But when they take action collectively, as workers, they ramp up the pressure on those at the top of society.

The Russian revolutionary Lenin argued that we can see the “hydra head of revolution” in every strike.

Strikes don’t only stop the flow of profit. When they are big enough, they can challenge the whole way that society is run.

Under capitalism, the bosses and their representatives make all



OIL WORKERS in Nigeria on strike in 2018

the key decisions. We are told that everyone has their place and that important decisions must be left to “experts”. We are also told that bosses and workers have a common interest.

Workers’ action completely undermines this logic and gives workers a glimpse of their ability to run things.

It can help workers see the world in a different way and give them confidence to fight for more.

That’s why the revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg said that the “most precious thing” to come from strikes is the political impact it has on workers.

Not all strikes are the same, and action can be more or less radical at different points.

Sometimes trade union officials can keep a tight grip on events.

At other times, there can be a high level of workers’ involvement and self-organisation. But all



Not all strikes are the same, and action can be more or less radical at different points

workers’ action opens up the possibility of a bigger challenge to the system. Marx argued that the working class can build a socialist society free of class, exploitation and oppression.

He said that revolution is the only way to force the ruling class to give up their wealth and privilege.

But he also said it’s the only way that workers can throw off the “muck of ages” and learn how to run society for themselves.

Situations

Time after time we have seen how workers change in revolutionary situations. Backward ideas, such as sexism and racism, make much less sense when ordinary people are fighting together.

Strikes are at a low level in Britain today and we are far from a revolutionary situation.

But even a relatively small number of walkouts on 20 September can help create a situation where workers are more confident to fight—and encourage others to join them.

Marx argued that workers can’t be liberated by others acting on their behalf.

They have to liberate themselves.

Workers’ self-activity isn’t just a better method to win this or that reform.

It’s part of preparing ordinary people to take charge of their world.

Workers get ready for war with Royal Mail

by NICK CLARK

POSTAL WORKERS in Royal Mail and Parcelforce are preparing for battle after their CWU union last week announced a national strike ballot.

CWU deputy general secretary Terry Pullinger told reps at a national meeting last week to “get ready for the fight of your lives”.

Over 100,000 postal workers will begin balloting for strikes from Tuesday 17 September, ending on Tuesday 8 October.

Overwhelming

The ballot is likely to end in an overwhelming vote for action—and could lead to a national strike as soon as late October.

Gary Smith, a CWU rep in the South Midlands mail centre, told Socialist Worker, “Everybody I’ve talked to in the workplace is up for the fight. And the mood at last week’s meeting was one of anger, but also positivity.”

“There’s a real feeling that it’s about time we had action.” Chief executive Rico



UNION GATE meeting at Preston Parcelforce last week

PIC: CWUNLC/TWITTER

Back wants to turn Royal Mail into a company similar to parcel delivery companies such as DPD and Hermes.

Delivery drivers in these companies are on much worse terms and conditions.

Royal Mail’s latest move was to announce that

Parcelforce would be separated off and turned into a limited company.

It’s part of a bigger plan to change delivery methods in Royal Mail, that could mean as many as 20,000 job losses.

On top of those attacks, bosses have reneged on tar-

gets to reduce the length of the working week—a measure designed to protect jobs against automation.

And despite promising a “change in culture,” Royal Mail workers have faced an increase in bullying by managers. Unofficial strikes by

workers against bullying managers in delivery officers have hit a rate of one a week.

The union says bosses have effectively broken an agreement signed late last year that was supposed to protect working conditions.

CWU national officer Davie

Robertson said, “Rico Back is now taking the first steps in what we would view as dismantling everything we’ve fought long and hard for in Royal Mail.”

“We cannot step back from this fight.”

“The leadership of this company has declared war on this trade union and they won’t find us wanting.”

The deal—the Four Pillars agreement—was signed between Royal Mail bosses and CWU officials after Royal Mail workers voted overwhelmingly for strikes in 2017.

Postponed

The agreement meant that workers were not called out on strike.

But many feel it only postponed a fight that has been a long time coming.

The union says there will be gate meetings at every workplace in the coming weeks.

“We will deliver another resounding Yes vote,” said Gary.

“There are a lot of people who are pissed off—this is long overdue.”

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Muslims suffering at the hands of the Terrorism Act

A report by detainee rights group Cage exposes how the police and spooks use draconian terror laws to target Muslims at Britain's borders, writes **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

MORE THAN a decade after politicians launched the War on Terror, Muslims are still feeling the brunt of state repression.

Fresh research by detainee rights organisation Cage shows that “potentially close to one million people” have been stopped under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. And the overwhelming majority—88 percent—have been Muslim.

The law allows officers to detain people without suspicion and hold them for up to nine hours at airports, ports and international rail stations.

Omar, a health care professional, has been stopped approximately 40 times, charged once, but has never been convicted of any crime. He was first stopped when travelling back from Lahore, Pakistan, with his wife and five children in 2005.

He told Socialist Worker, “As soon as I got to the airport, I knew I was going to get stopped because all the officers were looking at me.

Cooperate

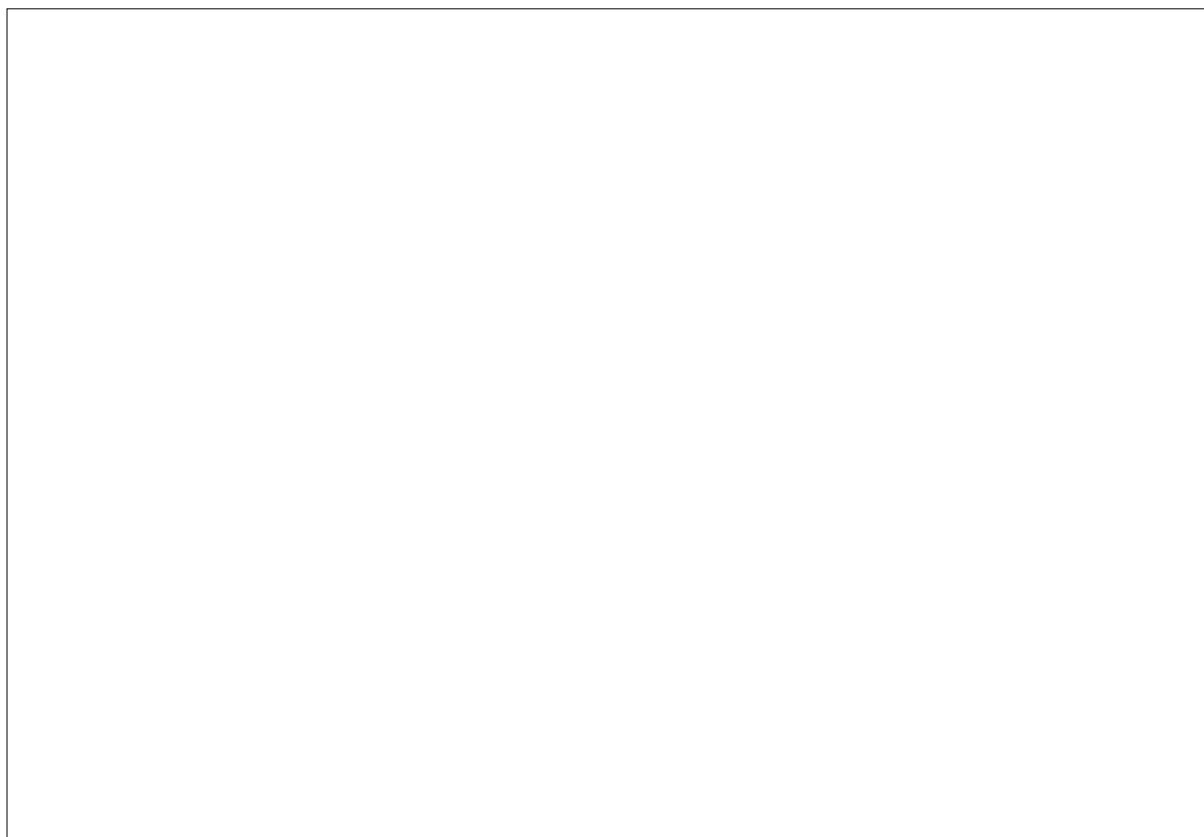
“I was told that if I don't cooperate, they'd stop my wife and children as well.”

Omar says that “from then I was the best boy” in the six to seven hours or questioning. “When they took me back to my family, they led me through a security door and slammed it shut,” he said.

“I could see my family was crying, and they explained that officers had told them I was going inside for 25 years.

“I decided the next time I wouldn't be the same, because when I was deemed helpful, all I got was my family being traumatised.”

Cases in Cage's research include people being asked to strip naked,



MANY BRITISH Muslims have been stopped under terror laws at British airports

hand over passwords and to become informants for the MI5 spy agency (see below).

People stopped can be made to go through a three-stage process—“screening”, “examination” and “detention”.

Home Office statistics indicate that over 419,000 people have undergone “examinations” in the last decade alone. But there are no figures for before 2009, and the published

statistics do not include people who were only screened.

Cage's report says its “conservative estimate” for the total number is “close to one million”.

Only 100 people have been charged and 44 convicted under Schedule 7.

But hundreds of thousands more have been stigmatised, humiliated and had their lives ruined. And that's because terror laws were brought in to target Muslims and paint them as

an “enemy within”. As Omar said, “I was charged for not giving the pin number to my phone.

“But the recording proved that I had not been asked.

“Yet I could have been convicted, been made out to be a terrorist and lost my livelihood.”

He added, “I truly believe it's to teach Muslims a lesson—if you mess with us, we can destroy your life.”

Read the report at bit.ly/sched7

Racist assault in examination

MUSLIMS have described “examination” as racist and humiliating.

When one aid worker refused to be strip searched, he said uniformed police “dragged me and threw me on the ground

“I was being battered all over. I don't know what they were hitting me with, but one or two of them had their knees in my back”

The aid worker said he was put in a “stress position”, dragged through the airport, and put into the back of a police van where officers “mocked him”.

Cage director Adnan Siddiqui has outlined further cases where Muslim women were targeted

“We have also been made aware more recently of a number of Muslim women who have been asked to remove their hijab.”

Spooks get in on the action

A RECENT survey by Cage found that 43 percent of those stopped reported that an MI5 officer was present in interrogations.

Their aim is to force Muslims to become informants within their communities.

One Muslim said, “I got to the hotel, and the MI5 guy was there.

“At the table MI5 offered money for transport, but I pushed it back on the table—I knew if I accepted, I would be under their control

“They asked if I wanted to work with them, and I said no.

“Eventually they let me go.”

New terror law to further ramp up Islamophobia

THE Tories' new terror law will give cops and spooks even greater powers to clamp down on Muslims.

The Schedule 3 of the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, passed in February, will give the state more scope to stop and search people.

And those who take a stand, for instance by refusing to hand over information, could face up to a year in jail.

The Act is one in a long line of legislation introduced in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in New York.

Tony Blair's New Labour government, and the Tory ones that followed, pushed through new terror laws on average every two years since 2000.

They include the Terrorism Act 2000, the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

After 9/11 Western governments stoked Islamophobia at home in order to help justify their imperialist wars in the Middle East.

Terror laws are part of an attempt to paint



Blair pushed Islamophobia to justify war

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Muslims as a suspect community. One Muslim woman, who was stopped on her way back from Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, said she was questioned about the Westminster Bridge attack in 2017.

She said, “I said it was wrong, that I didn't agree with killing innocent people.

“But then she started pushing me, saying, ‘But it was politically motivated—what do you think about that?’

“I said I didn't agree with killing innocent people.”

IN BRIEF

First Glasgow buses ballot over safety

BUS DRIVERS in Glasgow will be balloted for strikes over safety.

Unite union members at First Glasgow are fighting against proposed changes to running times on the city's buses.

They say it would lead to a reduced recovery time for drivers, putting passenger safety at risk.

Mick Dowds, Unite's national convenor, said, "First Glasgow is blatantly scurrying around with a new set of rosters.

"This will directly impact on drivers' wellbeing and could have a catastrophic effect on passengers and the public."

Scaffolders want an agreement

SCAFFOLDERS AT Drax power station in North Yorkshire were set to strike on Wednesday of next week.

The 29 Unite union members are employed by Altrad Hertel.

The contractor has refused to register the scaffolders under the National Agreement for the Electrical Construction Industry.

The agreement between bosses and union governs terms and conditions.

They plan a further 24-hour walkout on 12 September.

Recognition for Amazon cleaners

CLEANERS WORKING at an Amazon warehouse in Peterborough have signed a landmark agreement with subcontractor Mitie Limited to recognise their union, Unite.

Motorway workers win union rights

WORKERS WHO operate and maintain the M25 motorway around London have signed a union recognition agreement.

It followed negotiations between the Unite union and subcontractor Connect Plus Services.

The agreement means that 260 workers will be able to negotiate on wages and terms and conditions.

Rallies for Bromley libraries strikers

STRIKING LIBRARY workers in Bromley held five demonstrations at sites across London last week.

The 50 Unite union members from the south east London borough have been on indefinite strike since 5 June.

They are in a dispute over staffing and other issues—and are demanding a 6 percent basic pay increase for all workers.

The workers are employed by outsourcer GLL.

LGBT+ RIGHTS



LGBT+ ACTIVISTS rallied outside the Polish Embassy on Portland Place, central London, on Saturday of last week. The Polish Rainbow in the UK group called the protest in response to Poland's right wing government pushing homophobia.

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

CIVIL SERVICE

Strike can slam break on the bosses' attacks

by NICK CLARK

IT SUPPORT workers at the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) began a month-long strike on Thursday of last week.

The members of the PCS union are part of a long-running battle over longer working hours, working practices and restructures.

The PCS says the action by IT workers is part of a plan of rolling action in DVSA—and that other groups could soon be called out on strike.

Picket

The PCS said 80 percent of IT workers joined the strike—with the majority of them on the picket line at their workplace in Nottingham. IT workers are also striking at the Swansea office. Paul Williams is president of the PCS Department for Transport group executive committee. He said, "The turnout this week



DVSA workers picket in Nottingham

shows the strength of feeling out there in the workplace, where massive workloads, along with staff shortages, have led to this perfect storm." Visit the Nottingham picket line at The Axis Building,

Nottingham from 7am – 9.30am, Monday – Friday. Donate to the strike fund online using account number: 20331490, sort code: 608301, quoting the reference "DVSA Strike Fund"

BENEFITS

Workers at Universal Credit office walk out to defend jobs and improve service

WORKERS IN Stockport who manage people's claims for the Universal Credit benefit struck on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

The members of the PCS union say poor levels of staffing mean they spend too much time answering telephone calls, and not enough time managing their caseloads.

This causes a backlog



Part of a day of action against Universal Credit

and delay in cases being assessed—and misery for claimants.

The PCS says workers now have to work on several cases at a time.

It added that there has been an increase in stress-related absences.

The strikers' demands include 100 more staff members, and a limit of 30 calls a week.

AIRLINES



British Airways bosses make plenty of money

Pilots' fight for higher pay takes off at two airlines

AN UPCOMING pilots' strike could see gridlock at every airport in Britain with hundreds of flights cancelled.

Pilots at British Airways (BA) have announced their intention to strike on 9, 10, and 27 September.

Members of the Balpa union voted by 93 percent for industrial action as part of their fight for better pay.

Balpa said, "Over recent years BA pilots have made sacrifice after sacrifice to assist the company."

It said these measures included "Taking a pay cut, productivity increases, closing the final salary pension scheme, giving up annual leave days, a new rostering system and reducing flying pay."

Balpa say it would cost the

BA only £5 million to resolve the dispute, but the strike is likely to cost the firm around £40 million a day.

The fatcats at BA rake in profits while denying workers a decent wage. They should cough up now.

RYANAIR PILOTS struck on Wednesday of last week after bosses failed to use legal action to block the walkout.

The Balpa union members want Ryanair to change its policies on pensions, maternity benefits and other issues.

They are also want the airline to "harmonise pay across the UK in a fair, transparent, and consistent structure".

They plan a further strike at the end of September.

FOOD

WORKERS AT whisky and spirits producer Diageo have overwhelmingly voted for strike over pay.

The 3,000 GMB members are angry about bosses' below-inflation pay offer of 2.8 percent.

The workers, who are based across Scotland, voted by 81 percent for strikes.

Well known brands,

including Johnnie Walker, Gordon's and Smirnoff would be affected by industrial action.

Keir Greenaway, the GMB regional official, said the result should be "a wakeup call" for Diageo.

"Diageo need to get real on pay and show our members the respect they deserve," he said.

HEALTH

Bradford bosses back off after all-out strike threat

by TOMÁŠ TENGY-EVANS

THE UNISON union suspended an indefinite strike by health workers in West Yorkshire after bosses backed off from plans to outsource hundreds of jobs.

Around 300 porters, cleaners and other support staff at Bradford Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital had been set to walk out on Monday.

Bosses wanted to transfer the workers to Bradford Healthcare Facilities Management Ltd on 1 October.

It is a wholly-owned subsidiary, a privately-registered company whose sole shareholder is the hospital trust.

This would take workers off the NHS pay-roll, opening the door to attacks on pay and working conditions.

Suspend

The decision to suspend the action followed what Unison described as "constructive talks" at the Acas conciliation service.

Hospital bosses agreed to suspend the transfer until February.

A joint statement by Unison and bosses said, "Unison has been offered the opportunity to present its case to allow the Board to further reflect on the position previously taken."

"The outcome of this further consideration will be notified to Unison by the end of September 2019."

"Should the Board continue with its plans to form Bradford Healthcare Facilities Management Ltd it has been agreed that the earliest transfer date will now be 15 February 2020."



BRADFORD HEALTH strikers

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

The board is set to meet in early September. The suspensions shows that strikes that are longer than one-day have the power to make bosses think twice.

They would not have backed off if workers hadn't struck for three weeks in July and August and then

threatened an indefinite walkout. Bradford bosses might try to use this period to break the momentum of the workers' action.

If they refuse to drop the outsourcing plans altogether, Unison should immediately name the date for an indefinite strike.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

The latest battleground in the fight for the NHS

BOSSSES USE wholly-owned subsidiaries to drive down workers' wages and terms and conditions.

They are a stepping-stone to full-blown privatisation down the line because the lower wage bill will make the service more attractive for private companies.

Health bosses were put on the back foot after a series of strikes in Wigan last summer.

The hospital was forced to abandon plans to outsource hundreds of support staff to a wholly-owned subsidiary. Other trusts in Yorkshire and the North East quickly dropped similar plans after strike ballots.

And the NHS Improvement regulator told trusts not to set up any new wholly-owned subsidiaries.

But health bosses want to regain the initiative. If the Bradford trust manages to push through outsourcing in February, other hospitals will go back on the offensive.

■ HEALTH WORKERS in Surrey held protests against bosses' plans to outsource their jobs last week.

Bosses at Frimley Health NHS Foundation trust want to transfer staff to a wholly owned-subsidary.

The Unison, Unite and GMB unions are fighting the plans.

TRANSPORT

Two tube line tussles

WORKERS ON key parts of the Tube network could strike next week over a "breakdown in industrial relations" in two separate disputes.

Train operators on the Central and Victoria lines, who are members of the RMT union, were set to walk out for 24 hours from 8pm on Tuesday of next week.

Workers on the Central line are fighting against chronic understaffing, imposed rosters, management bullying, inadequate welfare facilities and local agreement breaches.

Workers on the Victoria line are fighting unlawful deductions of wages, enforced overtime and noise levels on the line.

TYNE AND WEAR METRO

WORKERS ON the Tyne and Wear Metro are set to walk out in September over pay parity.

They are demanding that those who work as maintainers are paid the same as technicians. The RMT members were set to walk out for 48 hours from 9pm on Friday of next week.

ENGINEERS

ENGINEERING FIRM Wabtec Faiveley is set to be hit by strikes after workers voted to strike over pay.

The RMT union members build and maintain rolling stock at the company's plant in Doncaster.

Workers have been offered a below inflation pay offer—effectively a pay cut in real terms.

An eight-day strike is set to take place from Wednesday next week, followed by a further eight-day walkout from 16 September. They plan a five-day overtime ban from 11 September.

DOO

THE RMT union slammed the breaks on the first three days of strikes on Merseyrail, following positive talks.

Workers are fighting for services to have a second, safety-critical member of staff on board all trains.

Strikes are still planned for 30 September, and 2 and 4 October.

BUSES

BUS WORKERS are driving towards action this month on Bluestar Buses in South West England.

RMT union members in Eastleigh, Totton and Poole are set to stage an overtime ban for seven days from Wednesday of next week in a fight over pay.

PAY

Not going back in Tayside until their pay's right

STRIKING pharmacy workers have vowed to "stay on the picket" until details of a possible pay deal are "ironed out".

Unite union members at NHS Tayside in Scotland began an indefinite walkout on Monday of last week.

They are fighting against a flawed job evaluation process, which has left some workers on "lower pay grades than they should be".

Unite wants NHS Tayside bosses to set up a local panel to look at the job evaluation process.

Susan Robertson, the Unite regional official, said the health board had agreed to this suggestion "in principle". She said, "At the



Striking in Tayside

moment Unite members will remain on the picket line.

"But we are hopeful that a way forward has now been found to resolve the dispute."

Charity workers in Wigan walk out after bosses refuse to honour wages promise

SUBSTANCE misuse workers in the North West who work for the charity Addaction struck last week after management refused to honour a 2 percent pay rise.

The Unison union members had been promised a pay rise in line with NHS pay scales after they were transferred over to the charity.

There were lively pickets outside Addaction's offices in Leigh and Wigan.

The strike was well supported by Wigan trades council and there were banners from the local RMT union branch and Salford Unison union branch.

One Unison member said, "In desperation we are striking for the pay we were promised for the vital work we perform."



Workers in Wigan

PICTURE: UNISON NORTH WEST

Another worker said, "We were promised and reassured that there would be no changes in our conditions of service."

"We must fight this. If we don't the management will see this as a weakness and they will come for our

holidays and pensions like the rest of the public sector."

"We must use every method to win including the legal path and more strikes if necessary."

David Lowe

Send messages of support to enquires@wiganunison.org.uk

'ALL KASHMIRIS ANGRY AT MODI'

KAVITA Krishnan has just returned from occupied Kashmir where she was part of an Indian solidarity delegation.

She talked to Socialist Worker about conditions in Kashmir since the Indian government annexed the Muslim-majority territory earlier this month.

What are conditions in Kashmir like?

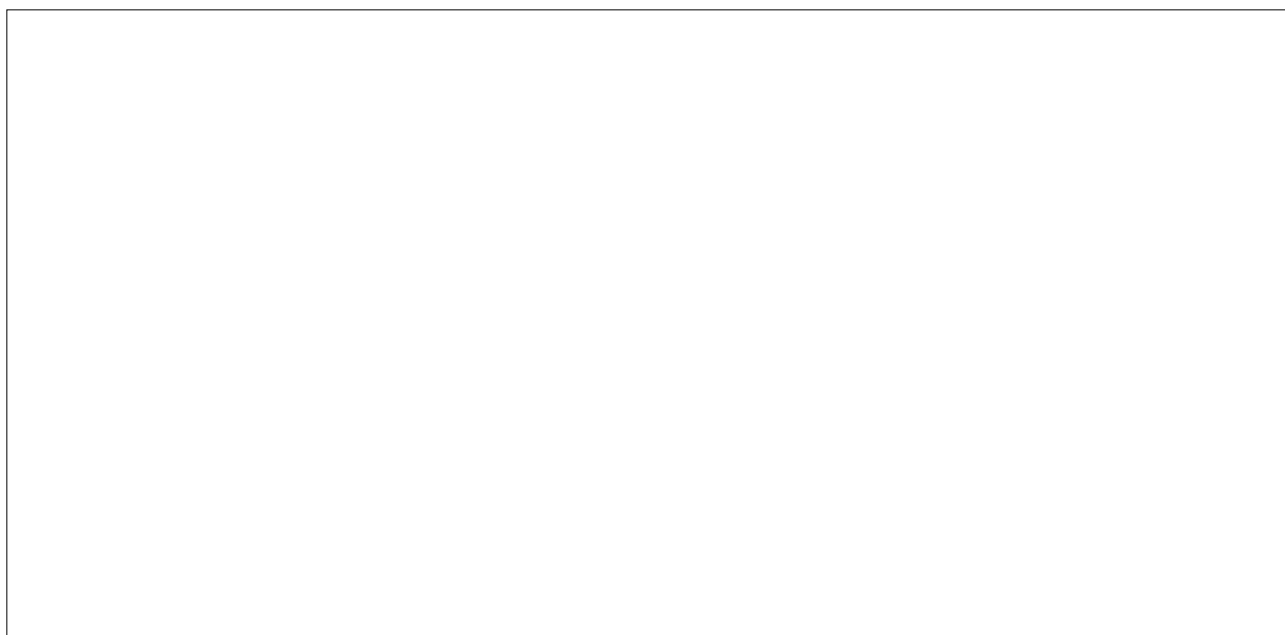
Kashmir is a prison with a total blockade on communications—landline phones, mobile phones and internet—mass arrests of political leaders, civil society activists, as well as young children.

There are barbed wire blockades on every other street, and intense paramilitary deployment.

People face severe hardships, including a shortage of food and milk.

A partial easing of the curfew for short periods allows households to stock up on some things they need.

But daily wage workers are unable to earn. And their situation is the worst. The



PARAMILITARY AND military forces have replaced the state police

Muslim Eid festival, known as a time of abundance and festivity, was observed in an atmosphere of shortages, as well as of mourning, anger, and deep anxiety.

People were unable to check on their loved ones who lived in another part of Kashmir. And many were

unable to go and care for sick family members.

Kashmir was already one of the most militarised regions in the world.

Now, paramilitary and military forces have replaced even the state police. They control the whole of Kashmir.

How is state brutality impacting on life?

Protest is outlawed in Kashmir. Yet thousands held street protests in downtown Srinagar.

Paramilitaries deployed pellet guns and we met young men blinded by them. Such injuries are

extremely common. The armed forces have been illegally arresting children.

We met an 11 year old boy who told us that he and younger boys had been held in a police station for six days in August.

We met parents whose children had been taken from

their beds at night by Indian forces and remained in illegal custody. The parents were fearful that since there was no record of the arrests, these boys may be “disappeared”.

Kashmir has had a grim history of such disappearances.

Is there a mood of resistance?

All Kashmiris are angry with the government.

But it is difficult to tell what form protests will take. We are hearing of street demonstrations.

But even peaceful demonstrations are disallowed. And crowd control measures in Kashmir are the most brutal imaginable.

The jailing of leaders of both the pro-India parties, as well as the separatists, have led to a vacuum.

But people told us, “The more you suppress us the more we will rise”.

Kavita Krishnan is a member of political bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation. The full interview is online at socialistworker.co.uk

HONG KONG

More police violence as protests in Hong Kong enter the twelfth week

TENS OF thousands of people defied police repression in Hong Kong last weekend, marking the twelfth week of mass protests. Protesters used bamboo and traffic cones to obstruct police as they marched down the city's main street on Sunday.

They filled Tsuen Wan Park chanting, “Fight for freedom—stand with Hong Kong”.

The police tried to disperse the crowd using tear gas and—for the first time—water cannons.

But protesters retaliated by throwing petrol bombs and bricks.



Police used water cannons for the first time.

The weekend of protest began the previous day.

Some 5,000 accountants joined the mobilisations for the first time, marching alongside lawyers and workers, including teachers and health workers.

Accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCooper offered some employees free lunches to stop them from walking out. Bosses have increasingly turned to intimidation.

And airline Cathay Dragon fired the head of the cabin crew union, flight attendant Rebecca Sy, last week.

On Friday of last week protesters formed human chains on both sides of the city's harbour.

Organisers said the chains would be “a show of solidarity to those united against the treaty and police violence”.

Chain

The protest came on the 30th anniversary of The Baltic Way, a human chain that stretched 370 miles along the baltic coast on August 23 1989.

People in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were demanding democratic rights and independence

from Stalinist Russia. The movement in Hong Kong began after the city's leader Carrie Lam tried to introduce an extradition bill.

The law would have made it easier for the Chinese regime to target political opponents.

China has run Hong Kong as a “special autonomous territory” since 1997 when British colonial rule ended.

Protesters' demands have broadened to demand the bill's full withdrawal, Lam's resignation and an inquiry into police violence.